

Peking's Nuclear Blast Denounced by Japan

By Rafael Steinberg

Special to The Washington Post

TOKYO, Oct. 16—The Japanese Government early today angrily denounced the Chinese Communists for "trampling on mankind's hopes" by exploding an atomic device.

The short sharp statement was issued by Chief Cabinet Secretary Zenko Suzuki shortly after midnight, within minutes after the Peking announcement of a successful nuclear explosion.

Suzuki declared: "The Chinese nuclear explosion does not mean that the Chinese will immediately possess nuclear weapons, nor will this have an immediate effect on nuclear strategy. We judge this event coolly and we will not yield to the Chinese Communists' psychological threat."

Suzuki suggested that Peking decided to explode the device on the day of the Khrushchev resignation "in order to make a political impression on other Communist countries."

Socialists Embarrassed

The statement was probably the most severe rebuke to a foreign government ever issued by a Japanese official since World War II. It was especially significant in view of Japan's current attempt to increase trade and cultural contacts with Mainland China. Japanese officials have declared repeatedly that China is not a threat to Japan, and

they accuse the United States of exaggerating the Chinese menace.

Japan's opposition Socialist Party is particularly embarrassed by the Chinese explosion. The Socialists long have been in favor of diplomatic recognition of Peking and a top-level Socialist mission to Communist China left Tokyo just two days ago.

In Tokyo, a leading Socialist Diet member was obviously distressed at the news. "Everyone knows this does not mean they have a bomb or a plane to deliver it," he said. "But it will have two results. The feeling of friendship the Japanese people have for China will turn to fear. And those people who want Japan to have nuclear arms will now be strengthened. This is the most terrible aspect of the situation."

Policy Continuity Seen

To the Japanese the Chinese announcement was even more worrisome than the news earlier in day of Nikita Khrushchev's ouster.

Foreign Minister Etsusaburo Shiina, after meeting with the government's top Kremlinologists, made it clear that the Foreign Ministry does not accept the explanation that the change was necessarily completely smooth and harmonious.

"If Khrushchev's resignation was forced on him," for it would seem to be the deadlock in relations with

China, problems of the domestic economy criticism of his foreign policy and other failures of domestic and foreign policy."

Nevertheless, Shiina declared that although new Moscow leadership may make some minor changes of policy, "they will be compelled to follow Khrushchev's footsteps on the basic policy of peaceful coexistence."

Japan's socialists, who favor Moscow in the Sino-Soviet dispute, expressed "regret" at the Soviet leaders' resignation and said they "expect" the new leaders to follow the same line.

The Japanese Communist Party which follows the Peking line, however, called Khrushchev's departure a sign of the "failure of revisionism."